

Report of the 2013

Youth Nominee Luncheon

June 3rd 2013



“Lend a hand,
We have a
heart”
- Youth Participant



The Event

Every year, youth in Nova Scotia are nominated for a variety of awards that recognize their contributions to improving our communities. These awards are issued by a number of Provincial Government departments and cover areas such as: **crime prevention**, **volunteering**, **intergenerational** projects, and work within **aboriginal communities**.

On June 3 2013, **12 youth** and 16 adults, including **two cabinet ministers** and **one MLA**, gathered to appreciate youth and recognize their efforts and contributions to their communities. Organized by the **NS Child & Youth Strategy**, the Departments of Labour and Advanced Education, Justice, Seniors & and the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in partnership with youth from the **Leader Of Today (LOT) Network**, the event gave young leaders from across the province a chance to learn from each other as well as inform government.

The luncheon provided youth and adults a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with one another and to celebrate the good work being carried out by youth across Nova Scotia. The event culminated in the presentation of certificates to the youth by **Minister of Education**, Ramona Jennex and **Minister of the Voluntary Sector**, Marilyn More. Becky Kent MLA, emceed the ceremony which recognized all of the youth who were nominated.

Welcome



We welcomed everyone to the event by conducting a ceremony that recognized the rich **diversity** in the room. Participants were given candles and asked to place them on a map of **Nova Scotia** as we acknowledged those of aboriginal, Acadian, African Nova Scotian, and European descent.

As a way to be inclusive of all participants, and to dispel **assumptions** we might make about each other, youth from the **Youth Project** facilitated an exercise on using **preferred pronouns**. We also ensured that there were **gender neutral washrooms** at the venue.



Question:
 “What can our government and our communities do to engage youth?”

World Café

World Café Highlights:

- Youth leadership programs
- Announce opportunities
- Youth governments
- Flexible criteria for involvement
- Listen to people of all backgrounds
- Multi-generational events that benefit the community as a whole
- More funding
- Spread info throughout the province
- Introduce volunteerism at an early age
- Youth should see themselves reflected in the community and in government
- Youth making presentations in schools
- LOT & GOOD NS
- 4H Fire Brigade
- Local government support and recognition
- Helping keep our communities tidy
- Youth giving presentations in schools to other youth about opportunities
- More education about how to get involved!

Table discussions were held in the form of a **World Café**. This involved answering a series of three questions. After the first question participants moved about to sit at new tables, meet new people, and discuss the next question.

This was a **unique** opportunity to discuss the good work going on across the province, share it with **youth, adults,** and **government** staff from different backgrounds and communities.

Answers to our third question “**What can our government and our communities do to engage youth?**” were harvested on coloured hands to create an art display.



